

Volume 6, Edition 7



July 2002

## **FREE DONUTS AT THE JULY MEETING!**

### **Field Day 2002**

This year VOMARC setup our Field Day stations in the Maxwell Farms Park at the intersection of Highway 12 and Verano Avenue after obtaining a special use permit from the Sonoma County Parks and Recreation Department.

We had an information table and entertained 8 to 10 people that stopped by to ask questions and chat. Some even had stories of their WWII radio operator experiences and one fellow demonstrated that he is still able to copy 15 WPM CW quite well.

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As usual for VOMARC, we operated 3A SF (3 transmitters in the San Francisco section). Running 100 Watts or less at all times and mostly on batteries, we were able to due well considering that we only had a Vertical and 2 G5RV antennas less than 30 feet up in the air. Jan, AE6FQ, had a great time using the IC-706 and wants to come back next year for the midnight shift since the bands seemed to perk up then.

Of all our operators, I think Jim, K6UUW, Ken, N6KM, and I, K2IYQ were the most disappointed when between the 3 of us we could not put together the 18 wpm ARRL CW Bulletin. I had to laugh because I could get a few words and then Jim got some while Ken could copy it all in his head but his fingers wouldn't put it on paper. So, next year, I will be ready. Lots of CW this year, heh, heh.

The night got COLD. Along about 5 AM Sunday morning, even though I was bundled up, I couldn't make it any longer and crashed in the warmth of the drivers seat in my truck. Dan, KG6LJN and George, AE6FY were still going strong and having great fun with their first FD operation.

Mike, WB6TMH, held the fort on 15 meters and all the filters we built several years ago worked splendidly keeping us from interfering with each other.

Another first for VOMARC was having a demonstration of Radio Astronomy by Dean Knight , Science teacher at Sonoma High School. It was fascinating to see his setup showing spikes of energy from activity on the Sun using 2 antennas, a receiver and computer. The receiver is one that his students built from a kit that can be purchased from NASA.

While we had Generators, we decided that they made too much noise and so we used the batteries that had been donated by HSC. When these ran down, we connected them to the Solar panel and charger and watched as the Sun provided more than 3 Amps of charging current. Our aim is to have more solar panels mounted on our trailer for next year (we need some help, please) and more charger circuits to keep even more batteries at the ready.

Besides scoring one point for each SSB contact and 2 points for each CW or PSK31 contact we were able to grab some bonus points at the rate of 100 points for each of the following; Public Official visiting (the Mayor of Sonoma was there), Public Information Table, Sonoma IT published an announcement and followed the event with a story and K6UUW's photo, Solar power, we sent a message to our Section Manager, and we were set up in a public place. With all that we come up to approximately 1300 points.

Now that I have the photos from Jan, we will submit the sheets and watch for our listing in QST. Let's have even more folks involved next year.

73,  
Steve

### **Equipment Donated to VOMARC**

Mary Jane Zukin, widow of Dr. Paul Zukin, W6OVW, has donated to VOMARC a large part of the equipment that Paul used until the day before he became a Silent Key.

I went to her house in Piedmont last week to pick up the Triasto 35 foot crank up Pole, the Hy-GAIN TH6DXX beam and a variety of other items. Some are listed below;

- A one KW HF Amplifier with Power supply (Pair of 3-500Z tubes)
- A Phone Patch unit
- A Military version of a Bird Wattmeter
- QRP Antenna Tuner
- an IC-228 2 meter rig (like new in the box)
- Various cables
- a Frequency counter
- an HF Dummy Load

There is more stuff to get and I just ran out of time and energy. We will provide a more detailed list of items that are available and a suggested donation for each to VOMARC. I will also

bring them to the meeting on the 17th. Most all come with documentation.

73,  
Steve



From "GIL", ARRL

## **VOMARC MINUTES June 19, 2002**

We had a meeting. It was good.

### **FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL**

Thanks to all who helped out with the 4th of July parade. I have been told that it was a good parade. Some time ago, we built fox hunting equipment, namely an antenna and an active attenuator. Mike will bring the fox to the next meeting and test our fox hunting abilities, so make a note to bring your equipment. Also, don't forget your handheld and some extra batteries. Not much going on the HF bands. Ten meters is dead and I have heard very little in the way of DX on 15. Twenty is OK at night, but nothing to get excited about. One interesting thing is that I have been hearing Asia on 20m on the mobile rig; even worked Korea on my to San Francisco. Our club has been the beneficiary of some donated equipment. Steve, K2 IYQ, will have more on that. Many hams have been busy in Colorado and Arizona with their serious fires. We too in Sonoma live in an area prone to wild fires. Some of you old timers will remember the fires in the hills surrounding the town. If you live in an area close to brush, now is a good time to remove same. It is a good bet that our ham community will be called on to help with communications should a fire erupt, so keep your emergency kit up to date and

ready. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

73, Jim

### **THE VOMARC WIRELESS**

VOLUME 6 EDITION 1

A publication of the Valley of the Moon  
Amateur Radio Club - W6AJF

Frank C. Jones - W6AJF  
Honorary President in Perpetuity

#### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Jim Hill, K6UUW - President  
Fibber McGee, N8TRU - Vice President  
Joan Brady, W6WXU - Secretary  
Steve Todd, K2IYQ - Treasurer  
Mike Miller, WB6TMH - Radio Officer  
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - Club Trustee  
Steve Todd, K2IYQ - Membership Chair  
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Editor

***Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.***

**CLUB MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of each month in McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, 15000 Arnold Drive, Eldridge. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600, PL 88.5 Hz.

**ACS** holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

**PACKET STATION INFO:** The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

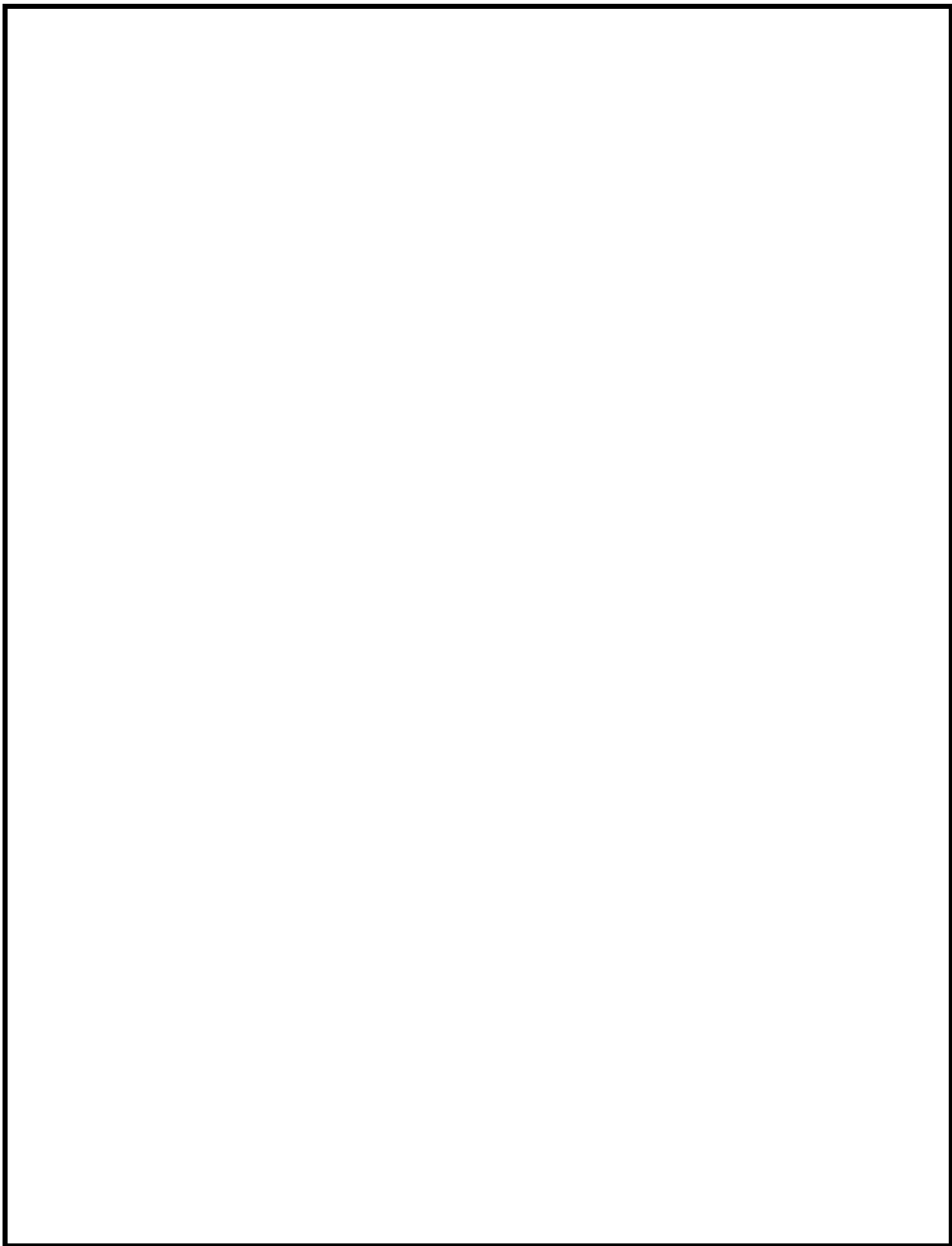
**CLUB BREAKFASTS** are held on the first Saturday of each month at Denny's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

WD6BOR@VOM.COM or  
K6UUW@VOM.COM or  
K2IYQ@VOM.COM

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**

175 First Street West  
Sonoma, CA 95476



**Valley of the Moon  
ARC  
18958 Carillo Court  
Carmichael, CA 95610**

**REMEMBER! THE JULY VOMARC MEETING IS THIS  
WEDNESDAY THE 17<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:30 P.M. AT MC DOUGAL  
HALL, AT THE SDC! CU THERE!**

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**VOMARC MEMBERSHIP**

**VOMARC 2002** Membership Dues: \$10/year individual; \$5/year family member.

ARRL Membership Dues: \$39/year; Over 65, \$34/year with proof of age; Family, No QST \$8/year.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

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VOMARC:\$ \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL:\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL:\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC** - 18958 Carillo  
Court, Sonoma, CA 95476-5570